

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 12883 01 OF 03 081848Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----002015 081911Z /45  
O 081753Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1915

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MEXICO 12883

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, MX, GT  
SUBJECT: STATEMENTS OF GUATEMALAN VICE PRESIDENT DURING  
VISIT TO MEXICO

1. SUMMARY: VICE PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA, FRANCISCO VILLAGRAN KRAMER, MADE A NON-OFFICIAL VISIT TO MEXICO CITY FROM AUGUST 1-AUGUST 3. DURING THE VISIT HE MADE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO OFFICERS WHICH WE BELIEVE AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA WILL FIND WORTHWHILE. VILLAGRAN DISCOURSED ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING HIS VIEWS OF THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOG AND THE AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA, DEVELOPMENTS IN NICARAGUA AND THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE FOR USE IN NICARAGUA, GOG POLICY TOWARD BELIZE, POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN GUATEMALA, AND PRESIDENT CARTER AND HUMAN RIGHTS. EMBASSY MEXICO ASSUMES THAT VILLAGRAN PROBABLY DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT ON THE ABOVE ISSUES BUT BELIEVES THAT HIS VIEWS ARE NOTEWORTHY, EVEN IF THEY ONLY PROVIDE AN INSIGHT INTO VILLAGRAN'S PERSONAL VIEWS OR HIS PERSONALITY. EMBASSY ALSO DESIRES TO UNDERLINE THAT WE DID NOT SEEK VILLAGRAN'S VIEWS OR ENCOURAGE HIS COMMENTS, WHICH HE CLEARLY WANTED TRANSMITTED TO THE USG. END SUMMARY.

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2. DURING HIS VISIT TO MEXICO CITY, VILLAGRAN CONTACTED TWO EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICERS WITH WHOM HE HAD HAD A LONG ACQUAINTANCE--JAY STRICKLIN, WHO SERVED IN GUATEMALA 1967-70 AND WHO IS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF VILLAGRAN, AND MATTHEW SMITH, WHO WAS CHIEF, POLSEC EMB GUATEMALA 1965-69. VILLAGRAN ALSO PAID A CALL ON ACTING DCM VERNON

MCANINCH. VILLAGRAN EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES TO THE EMBASSY OFFICERS AND MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE WANTED HIS VIEWS TRANSMITTED TO THE USG.

3. VILLAGRAN WAS IN MEXICO CITY FOR A NON-OFFICIAL VISIT. HE TOLD THE OFFICERS THAT HE HAD INFORMED THE MEXICAN SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS THAT HE WAS NOT SEEKING CONTACT WITH THE GOM AND THAT THE TRIP WAS STRICTLY PERSONAL IN NATURE. HE APPARENTLY HAD LITTLE OR NO CONTACT WITH THE GUATEMALAN EMBASSY AND STAYED IN A HOTEL RATHER THAN AT HIS AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

4. RELATIONS BETWEEN GOG AND AMERICAN EMBASSY GUATEMALA: VILLAGRAN EXPRESSED HIS DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE POOR STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN GOG AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN GUATEMALA CITY. HE STATED THAT THE ANIMOSITY BETWEEN HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE EMBASSY IS DEEP ENOUGH THAT THE GOG IS CONSIDERING ASKING THAT THE U.S. AMBASSADOR BE RECALLED. HE SAID, "NO ONE THERE WILL LISTEN TO US, WE HAVE NO ONE TO TALK TO." HE FEELS THAT THE PERSONNEL AT OUR EMBASSY IN GUATEMALA CITY HAS NOT PASSED ON THE MESSAGES WHICH HIS GOVERNMENT DESIRES TO CONVEY TO OUR GOVERNMENT. "THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF MIXED SIGNALS IF WE GO THROUGH THAT EMBASSY." HE ALSO SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS GONE MORE THAN HALF WAY IN TRYING TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH THE EMBASSY, AS WELL AS WITH ARA. HE  
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STATED THAT IN SEPARATE CONTACTS IN THE PERIOD SINCE HIS ELECTION, HE FELT PERSONALLY SLIGHTED BY FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SALLY SHELTON, DURING THEIR VISITS TO GUATEMALA, AND HE IMPLIED DISAPPOINTMENT IN HIS MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY, WHOM HE MET IN CARACAS PRIOR TO LUCAS' INAUGURATION. (VILLAGRAN HAD KNOWN VAKY FROM VAKY'S DAYS AS DCM IN GUATEMALA.) HE MENTIONED AS DESIRABLE A POSSIBLE MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE OR WITH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ANDREW YOUNG, WHOM HE ADMIRES. HE SAID, "WE (GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT LUCAS AND HIMSELF) WILL GO ANYWHERE ANY TIME TO MEET WITH RESPONSIBLE U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS."

5. VILLAGRAN FEELS THAT AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IS ALOOF TOWARD THE LUCAS ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE THE EMBASSY SUPPOSEDLY INCORRECTLY PREDICTED THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT ELECTIONS AND THAT THE EMBASSY IS RESENTFUL THAT HIS PARTY WON. HE SAID, "THERE IS A DEPREICATION OF LUCAS BY THE EMBASSY THAT IS INAPPROPRIATE." HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT LUCAS WAS NOT PERSONALLY KNOWN TO U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND THAT HE HIMSELF WAS CONSIDERED "A LEFTIST" BY THE

"CONSERVATIVE" EMBASSY.

6. NICARAGUA: VILLAGRAN SAID THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS EXCELLENT CONTACTS AND INFORMANTS WITHIN THE OPPOSITION TO NICARAGUAN DICTATOR SOMOZA. HE SAID, "WE FULLY EXPECT SOMOZA TO FALL BY DECEMBER." VILLAGRAN PERSONALLY HAS FOUR FRIENDS IN THE "GRUPO DE DOCE," AN OPPOSITION GROUP TO SOMOZA. HE FEELS THAT WHEN SOMOZA FALLS, THE GRUPO DE DOCE AND THE NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION IN GENERAL WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO FILL SOMOZA'S VACUUM AND THAT A SERIES OF

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1916

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PETTY DICTATORS FROM THE NICARAGUAN NATIONAL GUARD WILL ASSUME POWER WITH RESULTING CHAOS. HE FEELS THAT A SOLUTION TO THE NICARAGUAN PROBLEM WOULD BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL AMERICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE. HE STATED THAT THIS FORCE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AND HAS THE BACKING OF PRESIDENT LUCAS, THE PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF PANAMA. HE STATED THAT BECAUSE OF THEIR CHRONIC BORDER PROBLEMS, HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE FORCE. HE STATED THAT IT WOULD BE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO ALL CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS FOR ANY U.S. MILITARY FORCE TO INTERVENE IN NICARAGUA. HE FEELS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA THAT CUBA WILL INTERVENE IN SOME MANNER IN NICARAGUA, BUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT WORRIED OVER POSSIBLE CUBAN INTERVENTION BECAUSE OF THE IDEA OF THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE, THE SOLIDARITY AGAINST ANY SUCH INTERVENTION BY THE CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS AND, HE IMPLIED, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE ASSURANCES FROM THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT.

7. BELIZE: VILLAGRAN STATED THAT THE BRITISH WERE NOT BEING FAIR TO HIS GOVERNMENT OVER THE QUESTION OF BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE BUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WANTS TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IF THIS  
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SETTLEMENT WAS NOT OBTAINABLE, GUATEMALA WAS PREPARED TO FIGHT AND THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO SEND HIS SON INTO THE FRAY. HE ALSO STATED THAT PRESIDENT LUCAS FEELS EVEN MORE STRONGLY ABOUT BELIZE THAN HE HIMSELF DOES. THIS IS SUPPOSEDLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO LUCAS BEING RAISED FROM BOYHOOD IN THE SOUTHERN AREA OF BELIZE. LUCAS, ACCORDING TO VILLAGRAN, HAS STATED THE MINIMUM HE WILL ACCEPT IN ANY SETTLEMENT IS A PORT TO THE SEA IN WHAT IS NOW SOUTHERNMOST BELIZE.

8. ITALIAN WEAPON PROBLEM: VILLAGRAN STATED THAT HE HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO AND THAT AT THIS MEETING HE WAS GOING TO DEMAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY FILL DELIVERY ON WEAPONS ORDERED AND ALREADY PAID FOR BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA. HE STATED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ITALY IF THE WEAPONS ARE NOT FORTHCOMING.

9. GUATEMALA AND MEXICO: VILLAGRAN SAID THAT HIS VISIT TO MEXICO WAS TOTALLY UNOFFICIAL AND "HE WAS NOT SEEKING OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH THE GOM." THE ONLY COMMENTS IN REGARD TO THE GOM THAT VILLAGRAN MADE WAS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WANTED TO SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO WITH A STRONG TECHNICAL BACKGROUND IN THE COFFEE INDUSTRY.

10. GUATEMALAN POLITICS: VILLAGRAN SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POLITICAL COALITION WHICH FORMS THE BASE OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION. HE STATED THAT THIS POLITICAL COALITION WAS FORMED THROUGH AN ALLIANCE OF THE GENERALLY CONSERVATIVE GUATEMALAN MILITARY AND A NUMBER OF CENTER AND CENTER LEFT POLITICIANS, INCLUDING HIMSELF. AN AGREEMENT WAS APPARENTLY MADE IN WHICH THE MILITARY SELECTED THREE POSSIBLE CANDIDATES  
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WHICH THE POLITICIANS RANK ORDERED. THE CANDIDACY OF GENERAL PERALTA MENDEZ, THE PERSONAL SELECTION OF THE OUTGOING GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT KJELL LAUGERUD WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO VILLAGRAN AND HIS POLITICAL COLLEAGUES AND, THROUGH CONTACT AND THE GARNERING SUPPORT OF LOWER RANKED

MILITARY OFFICERS, PERALTA'S CANDIDACY WAS DEFEATED AND LUCAS' ELECTION WAS ASSURED. BECAUSE THE POLITICIANS, THAT IS, VILLAGRAN, GUARANTEED THE ELECTION FOR LUCAS, A TIGHT BOND HAS BEEN FORMED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT.

11. VILLAGRAN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS A SUPPORTER AND CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF LUCAS, HE IS STILL HIS OWN MAN AND WILL BE SURE TO PROMOTE HIS OWN PROGRAMS. HE SAID THAT HE HAS A NUMBER OF DEMANDS WHICH MUST BE FULFILLED BY LUCAS, AND THAT VILLAGRAN WILL RESIGN IF LUCAS DOES NOT CARRY OUT THESE DEMANDS.

12. VILLAGRAN NOTED THAT LUCAS COMES FROM AN INDIAN BACKGROUND AND HAS BROUGHT INDIANS INTO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THAT THIS FACT WILL HAVE GREAT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THE HISTORY OF GUATEMALA.

13. HUMAN RIGHTS: VILLAGRAN MENTIONED THAT HE FELT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH TO THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING WAS A FAILURE AND ALMOST LAUGHABLE. HE SAID THAT THE SPEECH WAS THE SUBJECT OF DERISIVE WHISPERS AMONG THE OTHER OAS DELEGATES AND THAT VILLAGRAN PERSONALLY FOUND IT VERY DISAPPOINTING. HE STATED, WITH AN APPARENT ALLUSION TO PRESIDENT CARTER, THAT HE DID NOT LIKE PUBLIC POSTURING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS BY PEOPLE WHO DID NOT KNOW WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT AND THAT HE HIMSELF HAD ALWAYS BEEN AN

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O 081753Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1917

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ADVOCATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

14. COMMENT: WE AGAIN EMPHASIZE THAT VILLAGRAN'S

COMMENTS PROBABLY WERE NOT CLEARED WITH HIS GOVERNMENT  
BUT WE PASS HIS REMARKS ALONG FOR WHAT THEY MAY BE WORTH.  
WE LEAVE TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA AND THE DEPARTMENT THE  
DECISION AS TO WHAT FURTHER DISTRIBUTION, IF ANY, THIS  
CABLE SHOULD RECEIVE. LUCEY

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## Message Attributes

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